

National Park System has many strong supporters in Congress, including me, but I do not think we help the Park Service by enacting unexamined provisions of law buried in a technical corrections bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3804, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3388) to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3388

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act".

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield is modified to include the properties as generally depicted on the map titled "Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Expansion", numbered 325/80,080, and dated June 2007. The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(b) *ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES.*—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire the lands or interests in land, described in subsection (a), from willing sellers only by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer.

(c) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The Secretary shall administer any land or interests in land acquired under this section as part of the Petersburg National Battlefield in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Army are authorized to transfer administrative jurisdiction for approximately 1,171 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior within the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield, for approximately 1,170 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army within the boundary of the Fort Lee Military Reservation adjacent to the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield.

(b) *MAP.*—The land to be exchanged is depicted on the map titled "Petersburg National

Battlefield Proposed Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction", numbered 325/80,081, and dated October 2009. The map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) *CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.*—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction authorized in subsection (a) shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) *NO REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.*—The transfer shall occur without reimbursement or consideration.

(2) *DEADLINE.*—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Army shall complete the transfers authorized by this section not later than 120 days after the funds are made available for that purpose.

(3) *MANAGEMENT.*—The land conveyed to the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be included within the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield and shall be administered as part of the park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3388 is sponsored by our colleague, Representative FORBES of Virginia. The 9-month campaign by the Union Army to capture the town of Petersburg, Virginia, was the longest of the Civil War. Today, only a fraction of the sites associated with the siege are protected within Petersburg National Battlefield. The Civil War Preservation Trust has consistently listed this area among the Nation's most endangered Civil War battlefields. Mr. Speaker, this legislation authorizes the expansion of the park to preserve approximately 7,000 acres that retain their historic significance. It was the subject of an extensive public planning process and has strong support within the local community.

I commend Mr. FORBES for sponsoring this legislation to improve the preservation of such an important historic resource, and I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

DECEMBER 3, 2009.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 18, 2009, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered H.R. 3388, the Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act, to be reported. As you know, this measure contains certain provisions that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 3388 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this

legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H.R. 3388. I do so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In the event of a conference with the Senate on H.R. 3388, the Committee on Armed Services reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in your Committee's report on H.R. 3388 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman,
House Committee on Armed Services.

DECEMBER 3, 2009.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Ray-
burn H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 3388, the Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act, which contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 3388, even though your Committee has received an additional referral. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Armed Services if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3388 expands the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia and authorizes the exchange of approximately equal 1-acre parcels between the Secretary of the Interior and the Army. The boundary expansion adds an additional 7,000 acres that have been identified as core battlefield areas during the Union Army's long siege of Petersburg during the Civil War.

I want to compliment the sponsor of this bill, Congressman FORBES, for including "willing seller" language in the bill. Private land will fall within the expanded boundary of the park, and those property rights need to be protected.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3388, the Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act. This legislation would provide for the expansion of Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg, Virginia, which will serve to increase heritage tourism in the Commonwealth of Virginia and enable Americans to learn more about the final years of the Civil War.

Nearly one quarter of the entire Civil War was fought in and around Petersburg, Virginia.

Only 25 miles south of Richmond, the city of Petersburg served as an important supply center to the Confederate capital. With its five railroad lines and key roads, Petersburg was recognized as a lynchpin of all Confederate efforts by both General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee, which is why on June 1864 General Grant moved to surround and isolate the City. Remarkably, for 9 1/2 months, General Lee held off the Northern troops, in what became one of the longest sieges in the history of American warfare. Eventually, both armies were forced to abandon Petersburg, leaving behind 70,000 casualties as they began their trek toward Appomattox Courthouse, where General Lee would ultimately surrender.

The historic sites at Petersburg National Battlefield tell this incredible story, and serve as an important reminder of an extraordinary chapter in American history. The numerous battlefields, monuments, and museums allow not only Virginians, but all Americans, to appreciate those who came before us during one of the most trying conflicts in the history of our great Nation.

The bill before us today, H.R. 3388, expands the area of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia by over 7,000 acres. The bill allows the National Park Service to acquire the land by purchase, easement, exchange, and donation from private and nonprofit landowners. This bill would also allow for the administrative jurisdiction transfer of approximately 1.17 acres of land between the Fort Lee Military Reservation, through the Department of the Army, and the National Park Service, through the Department of the Interior. H.R. 3388 is supported by all parties involved, including each surrounding locality.

The Petersburg National Battlefield is an integral part of the local community, an important tourist destination for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a touchstone of America's past. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3388 to ensure that this important historic site is enhanced for generations of Americans to come.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina for managing the bills on the floor today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3388, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2009.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2009, at 9:31 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 370.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A DEFINABLE VICTORY IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate being recognized and the privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. And I've just returned within the last few hours from Afghanistan, arriving here this morning sometime around, oh, 7 or so after a long and very busy weekend in places in Afghanistan that we know as Kabul and Kandahar, Bagram, and also, a forward operating base called Spin Boldak.

And it's been my opinion for a long time, and having made at least nine different visits over to theaters that we do call theaters of war, that would include six to Iraq and three trips to Afghanistan, there are some other trips along there that I haven't chronicled, Madam Speaker, but I've found that sitting in classified briefings here in the United States Congress, here in the Capitol Building or over in the secure building in Rayburn, or going out to briefings at the White House and listening to our top military officers, our top civilian officers, including the State Department officers, give us their briefing on what's taking place in a region like that is not a fair substitute for actually going into the theater and receiving the briefings there from the people that are hands-on, on the ground, in the field.

And having an opportunity to sit down and eye-to-eye discuss these situations, generally with people from our home State, where we always have something in common and where we can get down to the frank matters of fact without hesitation because we more naturally trust each other, and we also know somebody that knows somebody, and whether we actually know the troops or not, we know the family members that are related to their family members, at a minimum. And so we build that level of trust and rapport.